## **Car Care Corner**

## Your Car's Safety Check Should Start With A Stop

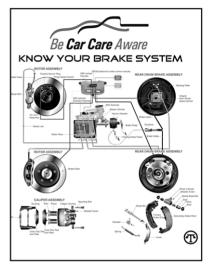
(NAPSA)—When it comes to your car's safety, brakes top the list of systems that need monitoring. However, many people are unaware of the signs that indicate a car's brakes may need maintenance or repair.

For routine maintenance, it's important to check the vehicle's braking system at least once a year. A thorough inspection should include brake lining wear, brake fluid level, rotor thickness, condition of hoses and brake lines, brake and dash warning lights, as well as taking the car for a test drive to detect other potential brake system problems.

It is important to be alert and recognize the danger signs of brake problems. Other warning signs include an illuminated brake warning light, brake grabbing, low pedal feel, vibration, hard pedal feel and squealing.

"We're offering the brake system diagram because the driving public needs to better understand how the braking system works and why it's so important to have it checked every year," said Rich White, executive director of the Car Care Council. "If brake service is neglected, you're gambling with your safety, as well as the safety of your passengers and other drivers."

As part of the "Be Car Care Aware" education campaign, the Car Care Council is also offering a



If your car is pulling to the left or right, or if odd noises are made when the brakes are applied, the brakes should be inspected.

free service interval schedule to help take the guesswork out of what vehicle systems need to be routinely inspected and when service or repair should be performed. The schedule can be obtained for free by visiting the Web site at www.carcare.org.

The Car Care Council is the source of information for the "Be Care Car Aware" consumer education campaign promoting the benefits of regular vehicle care, maintenance and repair to consumers.